

Southeast News

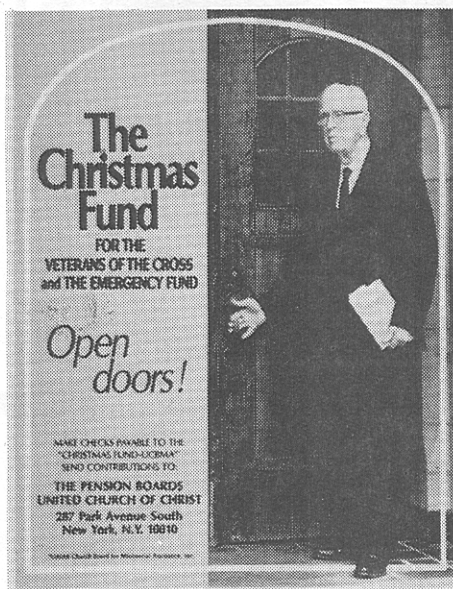
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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NUMBER 9



The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund theme for 1975 is "Open Doors!" It catches the spirit of those ministers whose service to our churches led us into new adventures in faith. It also suggests that when we provide help and support for those in need, we also open doors.

The Christmas Fund sends checks and Christmas greetings in the name of the Church to carry out affection and concern.

The Christmas Fund, administered by the Pension Boards, also helps throughout the year some ministers who actively serve. Ministers and their families hurt by illness, accident, or other tragedy beyond their own resources, receive practical help from the Emergency Fund.

This offering is generally received either as a Christmas Offering, or on the Sunday following Christmas. Make checks payable to the "Christmas Fund - UCBMA." Send to Southeast Conference Office, Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30329, so designated.

A CHRISTMAS LETTER

by Rev. Floyd M. Price

To Christians and church people in general, a real Christmas message would be something else entirely, if it did not contain a spiritual portrayal of the nativity scene.

Perhaps each of us feels himself so simple minded or numb to the urgings of any heavenly vision that we can scarcely grasp the full import of any of the parts of the Christmas happenings as so beautifully depicted in the New Testament. I hope to be able to roll into one bun a rewarding mental view of the several ingredients of the coming of the Christ-Child. Then each of us may take our own worshipful microscopic view of one or more of the primal incidents of Christmas.

We know there were WISEMEN SEARCHERS. And we know they followed a star. They followed its light until they found THE STAR of the THEN, which was THE STAR of the NOW, and of ALL ETERNITY. The question which each of us must ask himself is: Who are the wise, and am I one of them? We know that the lowly shepherds — perhaps a little less wise in many of the profound ways of the world culture — were even more sensitive to SPIRITUAL and CELESTIAL matters. The shepherds, while missing the star, both saw and heard the angels — which the wisemen had neither seen or heard. How common am I? How spiritual are you? Can we either see stars or hear angels? The shepherds were favored to hear the very first Christmas Carol ever sung. It was choralized by a whole choir of angels, on the first Christmas morning. And it was staged on the skyline above the treetops. Not only was that music the sweetest the shepherds had ever heard — they found themselves stunned to silence by such luminous radiance that it dazzled their eyes. Then one of the Seraphs brought them this message: "There is born unto you in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

Yes, the Magi followed the Star and the Shepherds believed the angels. And all the searchers, found for their TREASURE the



John T. Enwright, Charleston Pastor, Died November 15

On November 15, 1975, John Thomas Enwright, Pastor-Emeritus of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Charleston, S.C., departed this life.

Mr. Enwright was born in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1904, the son of the late Mr. Thomas J. Enwright and Mrs. Emma Strothers. He was educated at Clark College and Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, and did further study at the University of Chicago.

Ordained in 1932, Reverend Enwright served as pastor at Plymouth Church since 1950. During his ministry, the church, formerly located at Pitt Street, was moved to its present location.

Shortly after answering the call to Plymouth, Reverend Enwright became interested in the Shaw Community Center. Through his efforts, the Robert Gould Shaw Boys Club was organized. His civic involvement also included co-establishment of the C.O. Federal Credit Union, service on the Board of Directors of the Cannon Street Y.M.C.A.; membership in, and two terms as president of the Ministerial Alliance of Charleston. He was treasurer and general manager of the C.O.

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Executive Council of Ala.-Tenn. Gets Underway

Meeting on the Fisk University Campus, Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 15, the Executive Council of Ala.-Tenn. Association, led by Miss Yubenia Prigmore, Moderator, planned for 1975-76. New members of the Association Council: Charles A. Brown of Chattanooga, Pilgrim Church, Treasurer; David L. Beebe, same church, Chairman of Committee on Church and Ministry; Mary Lynn Ogletree, Campus Minister at Vanderbilt University, Chairman of the Christian Education Committee; Collie Seymour of the Belvidere Church, Vice Moderator.

Churches and pastors will receive in the near future minutes of the Association meeting in September and the revised constitution.

The Council discussed the possibility of a new "Community of Faith" in Decatur, Ala.

The Committee on Church and Ministry will study the appropriate responsibilities of ministers in the Association not serving parishes to the Association and report back to the Council.

Association per capita dues in 1975-76 should be sent to the new Treasurer, Mr. Charles A. Brown, 1001 Arden Way, Signal Mountain, Tn. 37377.

Officers and Committees can be reimbursed for travel at the rate of 10c per mile and for meals and lodging when necessary.

The Executive Council continued the Association Office at the Brookmeade Church, 722 Bresslyn Rd., Nashville, Tn. 37205, with Stephen C. Gray as the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Council of the Association.

The Council voted to ask Wilson Q. Welch to serve as an "Association Pastor," moving in and among the churches and serving as pastor to churches and pastors.

The next meeting of the officers will be Friday night, February 20, 1976, in Chattanooga, and the Committees will meet on Saturday, February 21, in Chattanooga.

PREVIEW OF DECEMBER-JANUARY ISSUE OF AD

Fred H. Kaan, poet and hymnwriter, celebrates the Advent season with "An Advent Calendar of Prayers, Hymns, and Musings" in the December-January issue of A.D. Magazine. Along with some Advent and Christmas hymns, Mr. Kaan has written a thought for each day from December 1 to January 5, to help A.D. readers prepare for the Christmas Season. A sample entry (for Wednesday, December 3) reads: "What have we to say

From Morgan-Scott — Good News - Bad News

The Home-School (remedial education) opened, with a call for expansion of staff and development — good news. The bad news is that neither funds nor personnel seem to be immediately available. The Health Clinic opened in October, but the federal funds request was turned down, greatly diminishing its potential effectiveness. However, any effort at systemic change in Appalachia is usually slow and painful. We thank God for the encouragement and support so many of you have shown, for the courage of the local people who have persisted despite threats and much personal sacrifice, and for the devotion of staff and committees without whom there would be no Project. — Bob Butziger, Director.

NEWS FROM CHURCHES

In the Pleasant Grove Christian Church, near LaFayette, Ala., several ladies of the church are members of the Union Hill Volunteer Fire Department.

Lanett Church has received "Thank You" notes from Brooklawn Center, Kentucky, for a \$60 check, and from Emmaus Home, Marthasville, Mo., for a \$50 check.

Rev. and Mrs. John Schofield have returned to the Valley area of Alabama, where they purchased a retirement home in Fairfax. Mr. Schofield will serve as pastor of Phenix City, Russell Woods Church. Their address is: 409 Trammel Ave., Fairfax, Al. 36854.

A very generous gift from Dr. and Mrs. Walter Graham to Wadley Christian Church honors Miss Vera Van Cleave, a member of the church for over 40 years, pianist, and teacher, "for always choosing the best things in life."

to each other after so many years of Christmases and an ever recurring cul-de-sac determination that 'this time it is all going to be different?' For superficial celebration we should have the courage to read: 'Deep-going renewal of our commitment to Christ.' For too copious dinners and hangovers: 'bread for the world.' For closed-shop home life: 'basic and generous hospitality.'

WHEAT HELPS THE HUNGRY



WHEAT, a new fellowship of concerned Christians, helps the hungry of the world at home and abroad. WHEAT needs you!

WHEAT stands for World Hunger Education-Action Together and is being developed by eleven major American denominations, including United Church of Christ.

This major interdenominational effort will mobilize concerned Christians, persons concerned enough about the problem of world hunger to do something about making a long-term response by study, dealing with hunger in their own community, support public policy issues related to hunger, provide financial support for hunger efforts of local churches, denomination and ecumenical agencies, by changing their own-life-style toward reduced and less wasteful food and energy consumption.

Congregations of UCC will be receiving information on WHEAT from their own Conference through efforts of the World Hunger group, established by General Synod. Stand by to commit yourself.

Brookmeade Has F/E

Brookmeade Church, Nashville, held a Faith Exploration November 15-16, with Mr. Lee Vandewalker as leader. Church members brought lunch both days, when they took time to think about faith — about God, about ourselves, and about those we would like to know better.

On Thanksgiving Day, the Church hosted a Pilgrim Thanksgiving Dinner for members and relatives or friends who would be eating Thanksgiving Dinner alone.

"At this season of the year, in spite of the expanding commercialism, we celebrate the advent of the Christ Child. This event changed the philosophy of mankind, the direction of the course in history — we are the beneficiaries!"

CHRISTMAS

From Here and There

Taken from the Pleasant Hill, Tn., Newsletter:

"Lift up your eyes to the great meaning of the day, and dare to think of your humanity as something so divinely precious that it is worthy of being made an offering to God. Count it as privilege to make that offering as complete as possible, keeping nothing back; and then go out to the pleasures and duties of your life, having been truly born anew into his divinity, as he was born into our humanity on Christmas Day." — Phillips Brooks

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Let Christmas not become a thing
Merely of merchant's trafficking,
Of tinsel, bell and holly wreath
And surface pleasure, but beneath
The childish glamour let us find
Nourishment for soul and mind.
Let us follow kinder ways
Through our teeming human maze
And help the age of peace to come
From a Dreamer's martyrdom.
— Madeline Morse

From Maxell and Homer McEwen,
Atlanta, Ga:

CHRISTMAS, AFTER THE ATOM

The world has known much change, O Son
of God,
Since first you came in lowly nature
veiled.
Triumphant man now spurns his native
sod,
A grander age, freed from restraint, is
hailed.
Man treads the starlit void on potent
wings!
The universe, one time so vast, so far,
Yields to heroic urge. We who are kings
Of earth's small orb now covet every star.
The tender myth of God in manger laid
Has no import for this enlightened hour.
The march of protean mind cannot be
stayed!
Our human wills are armed with godlike
power.
We have all this: and emptiness of soul!
O come, Emmanuel, and make us whole.

A PROPHECY

For, though darkness covers the earth
and dark night the nations,
the Lord shall shine upon you
and over you shall his glory appear.
— Isai' 60:2
New Eng' n Bible



CAN YOUR CHURCH USE A NEW CHRISTMAS FILMSTRIP?

The Office for Audio-Visuals has produced a new filmstrip for Christmas. Tidings of Joy was written by Karyn Druse, who also drew all of the cartoon visuals of this delightful Christmas resource. Karyn is the wife of Rev. Jerry Kruse, pastor of Gridley Congregational United Church of Christ in Beloit, Wis.

Tidings of Joy is a clever adaptation of Dickens' Christmas Carol with Karyn's own style of colorful and intriguing cartoon figures.

Words on the screen encourage viewers to sing along with the theme song, "God Rest You Merry, Everyone", and proclaim their own joy in what God has done. The 10-minute filmstrip is suited for all ages and sells for \$12.00. Order immediately from: Office for Audio-Visuals, United Church of Christ, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

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Bicentennial TV Series Six American Families

The Lilly Endowment, Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana, has granted \$125,000 to the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ to help pay production costs of a Bicentennial television series, "Six American Families."

"The need for an informative series that deals with the day-by-day ethical and moral decisions that face families is most urgent," commented the Senior Program Officer of Lilly, Robert S. Lecky. "Lilly Endowment, Inc. is pleased to cooperate with the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church in their project with Group W (Westinghouse Broadcasting Co.) to bring this important program to the American people. Our hope is that it will encourage discussion and strengthen both family and national life."

Each family will watch itself on a monitor, reliving decisions made during the filming. They will then discuss on the air the ethical implications of their decisions and actions and how such acts affect the country as a whole.

ENWRIGHT ...

[Cont. from Page 1]

Federal Credit Union, a member of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference and the Georgia-South Carolina Association of the United Church of Christ; a Mason, and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Emma Strothers; a daughter, Mrs. Florence E. Miller; a son-in-law, Mr. Carl B. Miller, Sr.; five grandchildren: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Grant, Mr. Carl B. Miller, Jr., Mr. Thomas E. Miller, and Miss Edith C. Miller.

Funeral services were held at Plymouth Church, November 18, with Rev. James R. Fields, Assistant Minister, officiating, assisted by ministers of the City, and Southeast Conference.

The following poem written by Mr. Enwright was used in the service:

"Fear no more, the heat of the sun,
Nor, the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done;
Home art gone, and taken thy wages."

From Robbins Parish

Rev. Lynn Gaylor and family have arrived from Anchorage, Alaska to serve the churches. A graduate of United Theological Seminary, Lynn has been in children's work for many years, operating homes in N. Dakota and Alaska.

HIRING A MINISTER

A church was trying to find a minister. After turning down one applicant after another, the following letter was read to the Official Board:

"Gentlemen, — Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I would like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications. I've been successful both as a preacher and as a writer. Some say I am a good organizer. I am over fifty years of age. I have never preached in one church for more than three years. In some places I have left town after my work has caused riots and disturbances. I have been in jail three or four times, but not for wrongdoing. My health is not too good, although I get a great deal done. The churches where I have preached have been small, although located in large cities. I've not gotten along too well with some religious leaders in towns where I've preached. In fact, some have threatened me and even attacked me physically.

"I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I have baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you." Looking to the Pulpit Committee, the board member asked, "What do you think — shall we hire him?" The good church folk were aghast. What? Hire an unhealthy, trouble-making, absent-minded, ex-jailbird? Was this board member crazy? Who signed that application? What minister had such colossal nerve? The board member eyed them all keenly before he answered. "It's signed, the Apostle Paul."

NEWS NOTES

Funeral services for the Rev. Bill Traylor were held in Eure, N.C., Saturday, Nov. 15, 1975. He had served churches in Southeast Conference.

Those attending the Board for World Ministries in Lancaster, Pa., Nov. 16-19, 1975, from Southeast Conference, were: Mrs. Freda Brown, Warren A. Blankenhorn.

O.C.W.M. gifts from the Churches, to count on the 1975 Goals, should be sent to the Southeast Conference Office, Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30329, by December 31, 1975. Any money received after January 5, will be put on the 1976 records.

An Offering Of Letters To Congress

Bread for the World, a Christian citizens' movement in the U.S.A., has proposed that Christians throughout the country write to their U.S. Representative and-or one of their U.S. Senators in support of the "right to food" resolution which was introduced in both houses of Congress in September.

The object of this nationwide "offering of letters" from churches on behalf of hungry people is to secure passage in Congress of a resolution asserting the "right to food" as a cornerstone of U.S. policy. Many congregations across the country, in many denominations, will be inviting members to write such letters and then bring them to church to be placed in the offering as an act of worship, an offering of their citizenship on behalf of the hungry.

The United Church of Christ Inter-Agency Staff working Group on World Hunger supports this effort and recommends it for one of the last three Sundays in November, or whenever convenient.

CHRISTIAN ENLISTMENT: 1975

Many congregations completed their 1975 Christian Enlistment on Stewardship Sunday, November 9. Many of them used the theme for the day, "Give . . . you can make a difference!"

When we give — freely and generously — to the work of the church in our local community, Conference, and throughout the nation and world, great things can be accomplished for Christ and for the sake of humanity it can make a difference.

Delegates to the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ last summer were asked to tabulate what difference it would make if the members of the approximately 700 congregations of which they were members were to take seriously the recommendation of a previous General Synod and give to the work of the church an amount equal to \$1 per week for every \$1,000 of annual income. When the individual tabulations were added together, the total amounted to a staggering \$41,171,587 possible increase! Just think what a difference it would make if we were to follow this recommendation!

Bible Studies On "Jesus Christ Frees And Unites"

Copies of an attractive booklet containing the twelve Bible passages used at the recent World Council of Churches' assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, are now available for congregational and other Bible study groups. Write: American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023, requesting item No. 05946. The cost is only 14c per copy, postage included.

A Bible study guide for these passages is available for \$1.00 from the Evangelism Office, United Church Board for World Ministries, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, N.Y. 10027.

It is the hope of President Robert V. Moss of the United Church of Christ and of the Inter-Agency Staff Committee on Evangelism that hundreds of clergy and lay groups will participate in studying these twelve passages over the next few months.

LETTER . . .

[Cont. from Page 1]

world's very first Christmas Present — THE TINY BABY JESUS!

God had created the very first Christmas by giving the world the greatest and most costly gift ever given — his very own and only Son. May God grant us the aptitude of the wise and the vision of the lowly — God's most generous and wonderful gift!

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